

Morgan Lewis Nabs Ex-Credit Suisse Director For Tax Practice

By **Derek Major**

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Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP announced a former Credit Suisse Securities LLC director joined the firm's tax practice Wednesday as a securitization tax partner with a focus on the tax aspects of structured finance transactions.

Sarah Nelson joins the firm after four years at Credit Suisse, where she led in-house legal coverage of commercial real estate finance and commercial mortgage-backed securities.

Nelson said she was excited about her new post and said Morgan Lewis' recent efforts to grow attracted her to the firm.



Sarah Nelson

"It was really their commitment to growth and what's happened thus far with their structured transaction group practice and their vision for where it's going from there," she said. "It's a really vibrant group, and they're committed to growth, and the ability to provide tax support for that group was a really great opportunity."

According to Morgan Lewis, Nelson will work with clients such as issuers, underwriters, government-sponsored enterprises and credit enhancement providers on the tax aspects of structured finance transactions including residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities. Nelson also will assist clients with debt-for-tax and grantor trust structures, asset-backed securities and collateralized loan obligations for real estate investment trust and non-REIT issuers.

"I am a tax lawyer and my focus is securitization tax across all spectrums," Nelson said. "If it can be securitized, I can cover the tax on it."

Bart Bassett, the head of Morgan Lewis' tax practice, said he believed Nelson's experience would be an asset to the firm and its clients.

"Sarah has a deep understanding of the key business drivers of the tax aspects of a wide variety of transactions," Bassett said. "Her work on various asset classes, both in the law firm and global financial institution environments, fully equips her to take on the complex tax review and analysis most transactions require."

Nelson received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her law degree and master of laws in taxation from New York University. She is a member of the Structured Finance Industry Group and Commercial Real Estate Finance Council.

Nelson said she can't wait to get to work with the other attorneys at Morgan Lewis to help take the firm and its tax practice to the next level.

"I look forward to working with the collaborative nature of the tax group along with the structured transaction group to be able to help the firm as a whole grow their client base and get involved in an even greater number of types of transactions," Nelson said. "The quality of people and clients Morgan Lewis has is great, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

--Editing by Tim Ruel.